PRELUDE TO

INFINITY

AVENGERS

MARVEL NOW!

AR

HICKMAN
SPENCER
CASELLI
MARTIN

014

PREVIOUSLY IN AVENGERS

WE GARDENERS HAVE ALWAYS JUDGED LIFE. IF IT WAS FLAWED, WE TERMINATED IT. IF IT HAD POTENTIAL, WE ENCOURAGED EVOLUTION.

WHAT WE DO IS AN EXTENSION OF WHO WE ARE. BUT THE GARDEN IS CONFLICTED, TORN BETWEEN TWO PURPOSES. DO WE BUILD BETTER WORLDS, OR DO WE TEAR THEM DOWN?

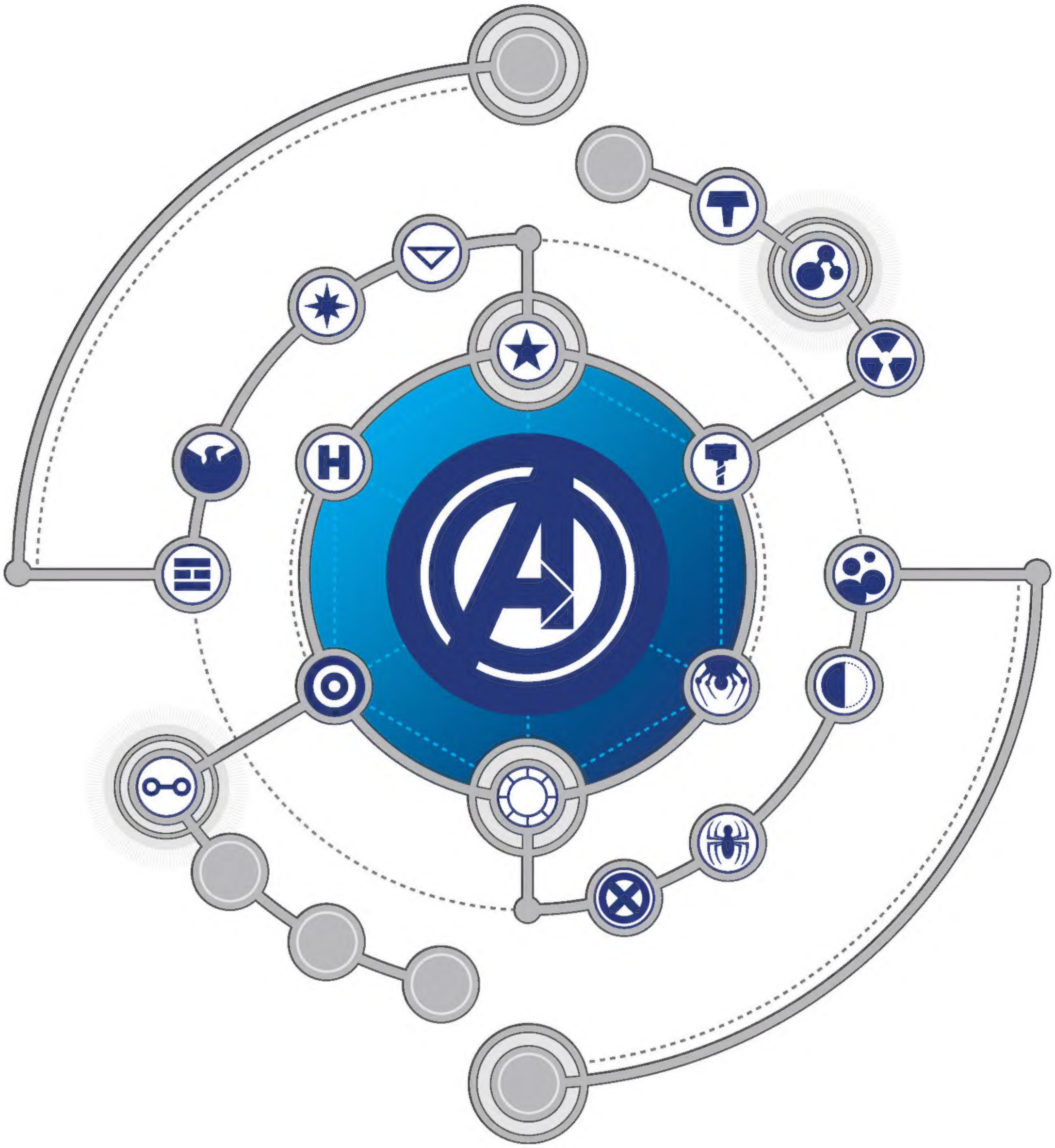
"I STILL BELIEVE IN CREATION. AND I TELL YOU TRULY, I BELIEVE THAT YOUR WORLD CAN BE TRANSFORMED--TRANSFORMED AND SAVED.

"EACH ORIGIN BOMB I SENT HURTLING THROUGH SPACE TO EARTH WAS DIFFERENT--MULTIPLE VARIATIONS FOR MULTIPLE PURPOSES.

"THIS TIME...I CHANGED THE RULES. I PLAYED GODDESS. THE BOMBS I SENT WERE NOT JUST TO CHANGE THE PEOPLE, BUT THE WORLD ITSELF. I'M ATTEMPTING TO MAKE THE EARTH SENTIENT.

"SELF-AWARENESS. SELF-SUSTENANCE. SELF-REPAIR. REPRODUCTION. COMMUNICATION. EVOLUTION. SELF-DEFENSE.

"WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN ALL THE SITES BEGIN THEIR CHANGE STATE?"



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA · IRON MAN · THOR · HAWKEYE · BLACK WIDOW · HULK
WOLVERINE · SPIDER-MAN · CAPTAIN MARVEL · SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON · SHANG-CHI · SUNSPOT · CANNONBALL · MANIFOLD
SMASHER · CAPTAIN UNIVERSE · HYPERION

"THE SIGNAL"

WRITERS: JONATHAN HICKMAN and NICK SPENCER

ARTIST: STEFANO CASELLI

COLOR ARTIST: FRANK MARTIN

LETTERER: VC's CORY PETIT

COVER ART: LEINIL FRANCIS YU & SUNNY GHO

ASSISTANT EDITOR: JAKE THOMAS

EDITORS: TOM BREVOORT with LAUREN SANKOVITCH

EDITOR IN CHIEF: AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA

PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

© 2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.
WWW.MARVEL.COM

CHHATARPUA, INDIA.
ORIGIN BOMB IMPACT SITE.

SITE PURPOSE:
SELF-REPAIR.

REPAIR FAILURE.

WORLD TERMINAL.

PERTH, AUSTRALIA.
ORIGIN BOMB IMPACT SITE.

SITE PURPOSE:
COMMUNICATION.

MESSAGE:
IN PROGRESS.

SYSTEM
FAILURE.

MULTIVERSAL
FRACTURE POINT.

WORLD
TERMINAL.

S.H.I.E.L.D. OBSERVATION STATION:
THE HUB.

"THE SIGNAL IS THE PROBLEM."

AND EACH TIME IT STARTS UP--90 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S ELECTRICAL GRIDS GO DOWN.

PLANES AND ORBITING SATELLITES ARE DROPPING LIKE FLIES. MISSILE SILOS ARE AUTO-LAUNCHING, DAMS ARE BREAKING, AND WE HAVE MELTDOWN AT 19 DIFFERENT NUCLEAR POWER SITES--

THE ENORMITY OF THIS THING... CAPTAIN, IT'S COMPLETE GLOBAL COLLAPSE--

AND IT'S HAPPENING *EVERY SIX MINUTES.*

THE DURATION OF IT IS ALL THAT CHANGES--NO OTHER VARIABLES. NEVER ***MORE*** THAN EIGHT SECONDS, BUT THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH.

SOME KIND OF SCALED-UP ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE ATTACK?

THIS IS MORE LIKE A SOLAR FLARE IN TERMS OF REACH.

BUT NO, POWER RESUMES AFTER CESSATION EACH TIME, SO IT'S MORE DISRUPTIVE IN NATURE THAN DESTRUCTIVE. IT'S LIKE ITS USING ALL OUR ENERGY SOURCES TO AMPLIFY ITS OWN STRENGTH.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL. THE LIGHTNING STORMS ARE AN EARLY WARNING--THIS AMOUNT OF ENERGY, IF THIS KEEPS UP, WE'RE GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT ATMOSPHERIC PROBLEMS AS WELL.

THEN WE WORK FASTER. HOW ARE YOU HANDLING THE STRESS, DOCTOR BANNER?

I'VE ACTUALLY SEEN MY WHOLE WORLD DIE IN FRONT OF MY EYES BEFORE, CAPTAIN--

I'M DOING WHAT I CAN TO KEEP THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE.

WHAT ABOUT LOCATING THE SOURCE OF THE SIGNAL?

THERE'S NOTHING TO FIND. AS SOON AS THE SOUND STARTS, ALL ELECTRONICS STOP. AND WHATEVER I'D USE TO TRACK RESIDUAL ENERGY WHEN WE'RE BACK ONLINE--THERE'S SO MUCH OF IT, I'M LOOKING FOR ONE NEEDLE IN ALL THE WORLD'S COLLECTIVE HAYSTACKS.

YOU'LL COME UP WITH SOMETHING.

CAP, LISTEN, I--I COULD USE ANOTHER SET OF EYES HERE. MAYBE WE COULD GET TONY IN THE ROOM, AND TOGETHER--

I WISH THAT WAS AN OPTION, BRUCE--

"BUT IRON MAN HAS PROBLEMS OF HIS OWN RIGHT NOW."

UPPER ATMOSPHERE.
FORMERLY GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT.

CAPTAIN MARVEL...

A LITTLE HELP?

YOU WANT ME TO WRECK IT?

ONCE WE TEAR INTO THE SATELLITE, THE PIECES WILL BURN UP ON REENTRY. I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE CORE. WE DON'T WANT--

UNDERSTOOD.

GOT IT, IRON MAN. WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO WITH IT?

WELL, IT'S NUCLEAR...

CAN YOU MAKE THE THROW?

HRMPH!

SMASHER--WHAT'S THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND?

UNNFF... UNFFF...YEAH... GOOD...YOU KNOW...

LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM.

BUT WE'RE NOT REALLY ON THE GROUND. YET.

AND WE'VE GOT A FIRE.

I'M ON BOARD, SMASHER.

CLEARING THE PLANE...

NOW.

WE'RE OFF THE AIRCRAFT, IZZY. ALL YOURS.

I'M GOING TO DUMP THIS ONE IN THE OCEAN, BUT THIS ISN'T WORKING. WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF RUNWAY TO PILE THEM ON. AND EVEN WHEN THE PLANES IN THE AIR GET THEIR POWER BACK, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL HAS ALREADY LOST TRACK OF THEM.

WE HAVE THAT UNDER CONTROL, SMASHER. WE'LL USE HEATHROW AS THE WESTERN EUROPEAN HUB.

I'M SET UP, FALCON. ALL WE NEED NOW ARE THE LOCATIONS, DIRECTIONS AND SPEEDS.

OKAY, SPIDER-WOMAN, HERE COMES--

SOUND OFF, YOU BIRDS!

ONE. 27 MILES SOUTHEAST. 408 MPH.

TWO. 42 MILES NORTHEAST. 423 MPH.

TWENTY-TWO. 220 MILES WEST. 510 MPH--GIVE ME 20 MINUTES, WE'LL HAVE MOST OF THE MAJOR AIRPORTS COVERED.

NICE THINKING, SAM. NATASHA--UPDATE?

I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN--

WE'RE TOO LATE.

ULJIN COUNTY, NORTH GYEONGSANG PROVINCE, SOUTH KOREA.
SITE OF THE ULCHIN NUCLEAR PLANT.

STAGE SEVEN REACTOR MELTDOWN. I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE. THERE WON'T BE ANY SURVIVORS. WE SHOULD--

ENOUGH!!!

I AM ITS GOD! THE THUNDER AND LIGHTNING ARE MINE TO COMMAND, AND STILL THEY DEFY ME! I WILL NOT SUFFER THIS--THIS--

GRANDMA ALWAYS SAID EVERYBODY GETS SICK.

BUT WE CAN ALL BE TOGETHER AGAIN, A BIG PARTY, WITH ALL OUR FRIENDS... OF COURSE GRANDMA AND GRANDPA CAN COME TOO.

THIS IS A SYMPTOM OF A GREATER ILLNESS.

I DON'T LIKE THAT.

YOU DID IT.

YOU CONTAINED THE FALLOUT.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SIGNAL?

THE SIGNAL IS PART OF THE SICKNESS.

SOMETHING SEEKING TO REMAKE THIS WORLD.

YOU GETTING THIS, CAP?

I THINK THE UNIVERSE IS TELLING US IT'S COMING FROM ONE OF THE BOMB SITES.

YEP. ON IT...BUT RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

DOCTOR BANNER, 35 SECONDS TIL SIGNAL COMMENCES--

NOT ENOUGH TIME TO CHECK THEM ALL...

SO START SOMEWHERE.

YOU--GET THESE OFF THE MONITORS--GIVE ME SATELLITE FEEDS ON THE ORIGIN SITES AND ANY RELATED TARGETS: POINT SOMETHING AT MARS...AND DIDN'T SUNSPOT RECEIVE RELATED INTEL ABOUT SOMETHING HAPPENING ON A.I.M. ISLAND?

I'LL GET WHAT I CAN, SIR--

TWENTY SECONDS--

TEN SECONDS--

WHERE ARE YOU? NO...NO...

THREE SECONDS--

HELLO-- WHAT THE HELL IS TH--

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

SIGNAL TRANSMIT.

SIGNAL RECEIVED--
DECLINED.

SIGNAL RECEIVED--
UNABLE TO
RESPOND.

SIGNAL RECEIVED--
NO RESPONSE.

SIGNAL
RECEIVED--

ACCEPTED.

SYSTEMS BACK ONLINE, DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FORTHCOMING--

I FOUND IT, CAPTAIN--

I FOUND THE SOURCE...

AUSTRALIA WENT DARK FIRST...

IT'S THE *PERTH SITE.*

EDEN, YOU READY? WE NEED TO BE IN PERTH, NOW--

COME WITH US, THE MEN IN BRIGHTLY COLORED CLOTHING SAID-- WE WILL SHOW YOU THE WONDERS OF THE UNIVERSE AND HAVE GREAT ADVENTURES. AND ONCE YOU HAVE TASTED GLORY AND THE THRILL OF VICTORY--

THEN, WE WILL MAKE YOU GO BACK TO AUSTRALIA.

PRETTY SURE WE'LL SURVIVE IT.

YOU SAY THAT, BUT WHERE I AM FROM, YOU CANNOT IMAGINE WHAT A BEER COSTS.

WELL, SEE, THIS DON'T LOOK TOO BAD.

SAM--

NEXT TIME WE LISTEN TO THE LOCALS.

EDEN-- THE ULCHIN TEAM. GET THEM.

ON MY WAY.

A WISE COURSE OF ACTION, CAPTAIN-- BUT DO WE HAVE THE--

--TIME... TO...

NEVERMIND.

OKAY, CONTACT MADE. IMMEDIATE, THOROUGHLY VIOLENT CONTACT. NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO--

WAIT.

CRAZY ENERGY READINGS...

GET ME MORE ON THIS ONE-- NOW.

GET ME EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT ON A.I.M. ISLAND!

A.I.M. ISLAND.
THE FORMER REPUBLIC OF BARBUDA.

MINISTER SUPERIA! WE WERE NOT EXPECTIN--

STATUS REPORT ON THE POD, DOCTOR.

UNTIL THE LAST HOUR THERE WASN'T ANYTHING TO REPORT AT ALL, MA'AM--

AND NOW?

WE'RE DETECTING ACTIVITY.

PREVIOUSLY WE'D TRIED PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING WE COULD THINK OF--WE STARTED WITH LASER SCALPELS, THEN IT WAS THERMAL TORCHES, WE TRIED PARTIAL PHASING, AND WE EVEN EXPOSED PART OF THE SHELL TO ANTI-MATTER.

ALL UNSUCCESSFUL, I ASSUME. SO WHAT CAUSED THE CHANGE?

WE THINK IT'S THIS SIGNAL INTERFERENCE--THERE MIGHT BE STRUCTURE TO IT.

YOU SUSPECT A MESSAGE?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT. WE THINK THE SITES MIGHT EVEN BE COMMUNICATING WITH EACH OTHER.

SO WE RECORDED IT, AND WE'VE BEEN PROJECTING IT BACK TO THE POD.

WHAT?

AH, YEAH-- I GOT THE IDEA FROM MY WIFE, SEE, WE'RE PREGNANT AND SHE DOES THIS THING TO MAKE THE BABY KICK.

SHE PLAYS MUSIC FOR HER, SO I THOUGHT IF IT REACTED TO THE SIGNAL ONCE...

CRACK

...WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE PLAYED IT ON A LOOP?

YOU IDIOT...

DO KNOW WHAT YOU DID?

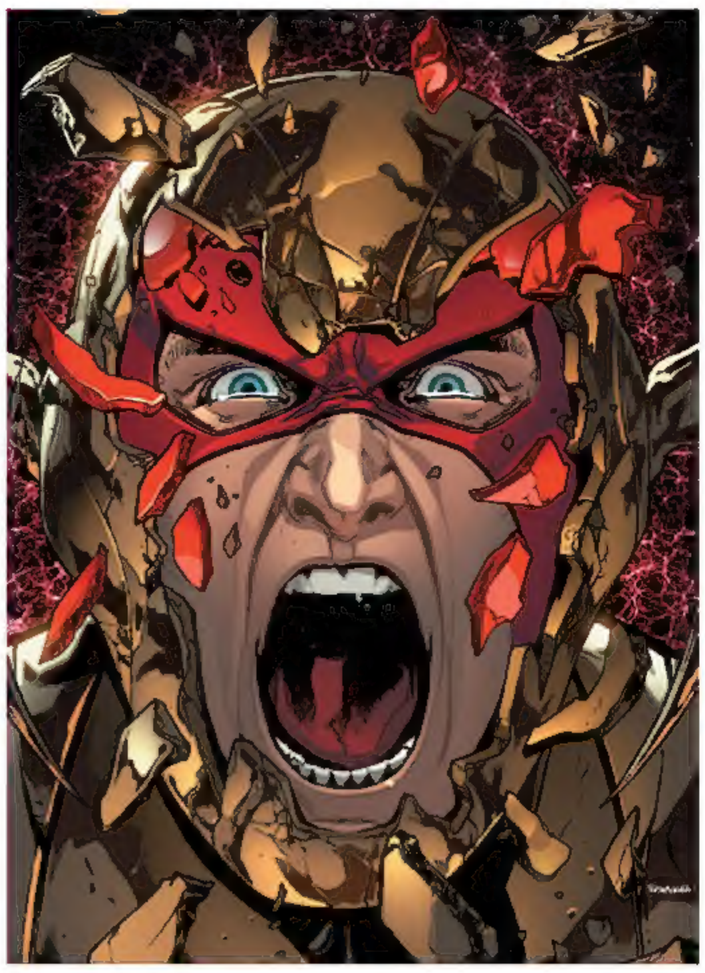
YOU WOKE IT UP.

TO BE CONTINUED...!

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

This is the month that everything comes to a head in **AGE OF ULTRON #10**—and Avengers fans in particular will want to check out the aftermath in AGE OF ULTRON #10AI! Writer Mark Waid teams with artist Andre Araujo to tell the definitive story of Hank Pym's formative years, and to position him for the future! It's also the entry point into next month's big **AVENGERS A.I.** launch—so you don't want to get caught napping! (And it wouldn't kill you to keep an eye on AOU #10 as well, for relevant developments in the world of Earth's Mightiest Heroes!)



Hey, didja happen to catch this year's MTV Movie Awards! Marvel Studios' own **MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS** film took home a hat trick's worth of Golden Popcorn statues, for Best Fight, Best Villain (Tom Hiddleston as Loki), and Movie of the Year! Director Joss Whedon was on hand along with Tom, Chris Evans and Samuel L. Jackson to accept the honors, and to tease 2015's **MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS** sequel as well! It's going to be a long wait—but we'll bide our time by taking in another showing of Shane Black's **IRON MAN 3** in the meantime!

Well, we asked for it, and you certainly delivered! No sooner had our call for votes concerning which AVENGERS title was the best gone out than our e-mailbox was flooded with responses! Here's where things stand at the moment:

Favorite Series: **UNCANNY AVENGERS** has the lead, with **NEW AVENGERS** close behind, and **AVENGERS** and **SECRET AVENGERS** tied for third (plus write-in votes for **HAWKEYE** and **ALL-NEW X-MEN**—Brian!!!)

Favorite Writer: Jonathan Hickman, with Rick Remender and Kieron Gillen nipping at his heels.

Favorite Artist: A neck-and-neck race between John Cassaday, Steve Epting and Stefano Caselli.

Rick Magyar's walked away with the **Favorite Inker** category, Justin Ponsor, Rain Beredo and Matt Wilson are dueling it out for **Favorite Colorist,** and absolutely everybody loves the typography of Cory Petit on letters!

We're not quite ready to call this one over just yet, so there's still time for you to cast a vote if you've not already done so—just drop us a line at the address at the bottom of this page!

Finally, here's a young Avengers fan who could use everybody's good wishes:

Allow me to introduce Joshua Gabriel "Gabe" Lyall. Most of the time he is a typical 4-year-old boy with the ability to morph into any super hero that is needed. Our family has received the "Hulk Smash," a web from Spider-Man and protection from the shield of Captain America. Wolverine has also made an appearance to ward off the enemy when needed. March 23rd, 2013 our Super Hero began a battle for his life after being diagnosed with Stage 4 Hepatoblastoma (a rare liver cancer in children). This young soul has brought a small community together, strengthening each of us by his heroic example and bravery. He truly is our Super Hero who deserves his spot with his Marvel family. Keep the faith and fight the great fight....we'll all be here when this battle is over to welcome our Super Hero Gabe home. We love you!

From A Very Grateful Heart,
Mary Ann "Sissy Bird" Robinson

We'll keep Gabe in our prayers and hope for a speedy recovery!

NEXT ISSUE:

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #13
THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY UNLEASHES TERMINUS ON THE AVENGERS!

AVENGERS #14
PRELUDE TO INFINITY! FROM SPACE, SOMETHING IS COMING...

AVENGERS ARENA #10
THE LAST STAND OF NICO OF THE RUNAWAYS!

AVENGERS ARENA #11
WILL ROMANCE BLOSSOM BETWEEN REPTIL AND HAZMAT?

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #16
THE ENEMY WITHIN! THE ARCHITECT OF CAPTAIN MARVEL'S TROUBLES REVEALED!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #13
THE ENEMY WITHIN! CAROL'S PAST IS HAUNTING HER!

NEW AVENGERS #7
PRELUDE TO INFINITY! IT'S WAR BETWEEN THE BLACK PANTHER AND THE SUB-MARINER!

SECRET AVENGERS #5
WILL THE AVENGERS ASSASSINATE THE LEADER OF A.I.M.?

UNCANNY AVENGERS #9
WHO ARE THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF DEATH?

YOUNG AVENGERS #6
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SPEED? NOT TO MENTION PRODIGY!

A + X #9
CAPTAIN AMERICA AND WOLVERINE! SCARLET WITCH AND DOMINO!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #15

E
E
M
R
P
I
zone